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(54) The CD40CR receptor and ligands therefor.

(57) The present invention relates to a counter-receptor, termed CD40CR, for the CD40 B-cell antigen, and to soluble ligands for this receptor, including fusion molecules comprising at least a portion of CD40 protein. It is based, at least in part, on the discovery that a soluble CD40/immunoglobulin fusion protein was able to inhibit helper T-cell mediated B-cell activation by binding to a novel 39 kD protein receptor on helper T-cell membranes. The present invention provides for a substantially purified CD40CR receptor; for soluble ligands of CD40CR, including antibodies as well as fusion molecules comprising at least a portion of CD40 protein; and for methods of controlling B-cell activation which may be especially useful in the treatment of allergy or autoimmune disease.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 93 10 2279

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cls)
A	TISSUE ANTIGENS vol. 36, no. 1, July 1990, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK pages 33 - 36 E. CLARK 'CD40, a cytokine receptor in search for a ligand.' * the whole document *	1-4	C07K15/00 C12P21/08 A61K37/02 A61K39/395
P,X	IMMUNOLOGY TODAY vol. 13, no. 11, November 1992, AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS pages 431 - 433 R. NOELLE ET AL. 'CD40 and its ligand, an essential ligand-receptor pair for thymus-dependent B-cell activation.' * the whole document *	1-23	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 21 March 1994	Examiner Nooij, F
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			



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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
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THE HAGUE	21 March 1994	Nooij, F	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons	
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